



CITY COUNCIL

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE ON
May 11, 2006

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COUNCILMEMBER DJOU: GET CREATIVE TO FIGHT ILLGAL GRAFFITI

Honolulu City Councilmember Charles K. Djou (Waikiki, East Honolulu) commended the Honolulu Police Department for their recent arrest of several graffiti vandals, but again urged adoption of creative action to fight graffiti.

Over the past year, Councilmember Djou has introduced and requested review of several ideas that have proven effective on the mainland to combat graffiti:

- **Graffiti Wall** – Councilmember Djou introduced a resolution calling for the City to look into establishing a legal “graffiti wall.” Other cities such as Los Angeles and Seattle have found a legalized outlet for graffiti can reduce the amount of illegal graffiti. (See Reso. 06-140.)
- **Anti-Graffiti Camera** – After successful use in Phoenix, Arizona, Councilmember Djou has asked HPD to look into using mobile anti-graffiti cameras that utilize motion sensors to photograph vandals in areas with a propensity for graffiti. Councilmember Djou states, “While I don’t like the idea of returning the van cams to the roadways, I do think using similar technology to fight graffiti is a creative project we should look into.” (See CC108 (2006).)
- **Graffiti Bounty** – Establishing a bounty for individuals who help police identify graffiti tags helped police in New York fight graffiti crime. Councilmember Djou has introduced legislation asking that the Honolulu Police be given the same powers. (See Bill 62 (2005).)

“Graffiti is a serious problem in our community and last year the City Council doubled the criminal fine for graffiti vandalism in Honolulu. But to effectively combat this scourge, we need some ‘outside the box’ ideas and I think some of these concepts, like a graffiti wall or graffiti-cam, can work here to fight vandalism on Oahu,” commented Councilmember Djou.

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